

GRIN-Global 1.5: Schema Changes



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The GRIN-Global developers are currently testing a new schema, “1.5.” The objective for this schema change is to eliminate redundancies existing in GG 1.0 between the accession and inventory tables. The changes will not eliminate any data, but will involve the rearranging of several tables.

In 1.0, there is an `accession_name` table as well as an `inventory_name` table. In the 1.5 schema, the accession and inventory name tables will be merged into one table, taking advantage of the fact that every accession is associated with at least one inventory record. A “Name” record can be associated with either the accession’s system-generated inventory record, hence applying to the accession in general, or associated with a specific inventory record.

The diagram on the next page illustrates the schema’s table changes. The new table names reflect this change – they now incorporate both accession and inventory as part of their name: `accession_inv_...` Other tables that can be associated with either an accession or a specific inventory were also renamed: the accession annotation and voucher tables as well as the inventory attachments and group tables will be renamed in 1.5 to adhere to the `accession_inv_...` naming convention.

We made code changes to GG to adapt to this new schema: In the Curator Tool, pertinent dataviews and the Accession Wizard were modified to handle the new schema; the Public Website was also modified to accept the schema changes and simultaneously some additional search capabilities were included.

We look forward to releasing a “2.0” version later this fall. The 2.0 code will incorporate the 1.5 schema, but will also include additional search features added to the Public Website. The Curator Tool will include new reports, a new Trait/Observation wizard, a dynamic query feature in the List Panel, and some significant performance improvements.

In the meantime, we will be releasing 1.5 as soon as it has been thoroughly vetted. If you are considering using GG soon in a production mode, but haven’t done so already, we recommend that you wait for the 1.5 version which will be released shortly.

Thank you for your continued support of GRIN-Global.

